

**TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ADULT DAY CENTERS  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGING**

**IN SUPPORT OF**

**House Bill 5757, AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY and**

**House Bill 5765, AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE CARE PROGRAM**

**Submitted  
February 5, 2013**

The Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers, an organization of 47 adult day centers from across the state of Connecticut, respectfully submits the following testimony in support of House Bill 5757, An Act Increasing Eligibility for the Connecticut Home-care Program for the Elderly and House Bill 5765, An Act Expanding Eligibility and Funding for the Alzheimer's Respite.

We ask for your support of the Alzheimer's Respite Care Grant Program and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders. The Alzheimer's Respite and Connecticut Home Care Programs are the funding lifelines of our most needy clients and caregivers. While we understand the challenge the Connecticut legislature faces to fairly fund so many vital services and programs, we firmly believe adult day centers and other community based services funded by these programs save Connecticut significant long-term care dollars by meeting the growing needs of Connecticut's elderly and their caregivers in the community and preventing unnecessary and premature placements in skilled nursing facilities. It is estimated by the Department of Social Services that the Home Care Program for Elders alone saved over \$100 million in 2010 as a result of the reduced utilization of nursing facility beds.

We know from prior years of experience that freezes and cost-sharing under these essential funding programs have pushed many clients and their caregivers to eliminate services, created waiting lists and forced many to apply for Medicaid eligibility to receive these necessary respite care services. We have witnessed many of our clients and their caregivers withdraw from adult day services when their grant funding runs out only to hasten their move to more expensive nursing home care.

Our clients have begun to experience the effects of the most recent reductions in necessary services funded through the state funded portion of the Home Care for Elders program. These reductions are being implemented in response to the Governor's budget rescissions. These reductions are affecting both our clients and their caregivers. Caregivers who work full time and rely on the adult day center to provide coverage while they work are unable to meet work obligations if their parent's adult day center days are cut from 5 to 4 days. What do these people do? We encourage you to avoid these unintended outcomes by restoring the funding to these vital programs and supporting adequate funding of home and community based long term services and supports.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

CAADC

1340 Worthington Ridge, Berlin, CT 06037

Telephone: (860) 828-8653, Email: [adc@leadingagect.org](mailto:adc@leadingagect.org)